

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ON-FILE NSC
RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

Brent -

I can not recall

Such an attack on a
President of the U.S. ^(since the) During
the talks in Jerusalem,

HAK warned Rabin, Poves +

All on sternly that they would
make a big mistake to attack
President Ford -



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BIS 20

*Is press criticism
of the President**FO
FEN*

ISRAELI PAPER SAYS FORD HOLDS BRIDGE AGAINST ISRAEL

TA231RT TEL AVIV HA'AREZ IN HEBREW 23 APR 75 P 13 TA

COMMENTARY BY DAN MARGALIT, HA'AREZ CORRESPONDENT IN
THE UNITED STATES: "FORD BEARS A GUILTY"

(TEXT) A GILD MAN WHO IS DEVELOPING A GUILTY AGAINST ISRAEL
IS NOW SITTING IN THE WHITE HOUSE. IN NO WAY DOES HE NOW
RESEMBLE THE GERALD FORD WHO, AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES FROM MICHIGAN, SIGNED PETITIONS
FOR ARMS FOR ISRAEL AND SPOKE AT MEETINGS OF THE JEWISH LOBBY.
A FEW HOURS AFTER FOREIGN MINISTER YEHAL ALON LEFT
WASHINGTON, WITH THE FEELING THAT A NEW LEAF HAD BEEN TURNED IN
THE U.S.-ISRAEL DIALOGUE, FORD GRAVELY DISAPPOINTED DIPLOMATIC
COMMENTATORS WHO CLOSELY FOLLOW THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT.

THE PRESIDENT WAS INTERVIEWED FOR AN HOUR BY A CBS
TELEVISION NETWORK TEAM. THROUGHOUT THE BROADCAST HE DEMONSTRATED
HIS OLD SHIELDER TOWARD ISRAEL. ONE COULD HEAR THE DISSONANCE
OF HIS O-BENEVASION OF THE DIRECT QUESTION AS TO WHETHER ISRAEL
WOULD CONTINUE TO ENJOY SYMPATHETIC AND PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT
ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES. HE MADE A POINT OF SAYING
THAT HE HAD NO SPECIAL REASON FOR MEETING WITH YEHAL ALON IN
PARTICULAR, CERTAINLY NO MORE THAN WITH THE HEADS OF MIDDLE
EASTERN COUNTRIES.

THE "REASSESSMENT" WILL ALSO EXAMINE THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM.
IT IS NATURAL FOR THE SUBJECT TO BE EXAMINED, BUT FORD
PRESENTED IT AS IF THERE ARE TWO EQUAL SIDES, ISRAEL AND THE
PALESTINIANS, WHO REFUSE TO RECOGNIZE EACH OTHER.

PARTICULARLY GRAVE IS FORD'S EXPLANATION, WHICH GIVES
GREDIBILITY TO THE ARAB THREAT TO IMPOSE THE OIL EMBARGO. FORD
ADVISES ISRAEL HAS EMPLOYED THE WHITE HOUSE NOT TO DESCRIBE THE
DANGER OF THE EMBARGO AS CONCRETE, BOTH BECAUSE IT DIMINISHED
AFTER THE WAR, AND BECAUSE THIS INTENSIFIES A AN AGGRESSIVENESS.
FORD KNEW QUITE WELL THAT AMBASSADOR KUNITZ HAD NOT STOPPED
EXPLAINING THE HARM THAT WOULD BE DONE, BUT ON MONDAY
NIGHT THE PRESIDENT ADOPTED THE MORE EXTREME LINE. A NEW WAR,
HE ASSERTED WITH CERTAINTY, WOULD CAUSE ANOTHER OIL EMBARGO.

*(he has said
this
before)*

ONE HAD TO WATCH THE WAY FORD AVOIDED EXPRESSING ANY SYMPATHY
FOR ISRAEL MONDAY NIGHT TO UNDERSTAND THE AMOUNT OF ILLUSION
WHICH ALON HAS BEEN NURSING IN THIS ATTEMPT TO "AGREE WITH
EVERYTHING THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED IN PUBLIC." THIS TIME FORD
EXPRESSED HIS FIRMS WITH ISRAEL NOT ONLY BY DROPPING HIMSELF,
BUT IN THE BACKGROUND THE U.S. COULD BE NEARLY MAINLY IN THE
REASSESSMENT OF AMERICA'S POLICY AND ITS MEETING WITH EUGENE
ROSTON WHO PREACHES AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT. ALL THIS CLEARLY
INDICATES THE BEGINNING OF THE TENDENCY THAT IS TAKING
SHAPE IN DETERMINING U.S. POLICY.

ONE MUST EXPECT A HARDENING AND A NARROWING OF U.S.
EXPRESSIONS TOWARD ISRAEL AND NEW DEFINITIONS OF U.S. POLICY
IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THIS IS NOT A CONFRONTATION LIKE THE ONE
WITH PRESIDENT EISENHOWER IN 1957, BUT HEAVY PRESSURE
IS BEING BROUGHT TO BEAR.

--THE ADMINISTRATION THINKS THAT CONSTANT PRESSURE WILL BRING
ISRAEL TO ITS KNEES. THE U.S. EXPERTS ARE CONVINCED THAT
ISRAEL'S ADVANTAGE IS SO GREAT THAT IT COULD AFFORD NOT TO
ACCEDE TO U.S. REQUESTS. THEY WANT TO CHANGE THAT SITUATION,
AND SO DOES FORD.

HOWEVER, FORD SPOKE NOT ONLY ABOUT THE MIDDLE
EAST. HE INTENDS TO RUN FOR THE PRESIDENCY, AND IF HE DOES,
HE WILL, WITHIN A LIMITED TIME, HAVE TO REACH AN UNDERSTANDING
WITH THE JEWS UNLESS HE HAS REACHED THE CONCLUSION THAT
JEWISH SUPPORT IS MORE OF A LIABILITY THAN AN ASSET.
IT IS POSSIBLE THAT ISRAEL DOES NOT ENJOY ANY LONG-TERM
ADVANTAGE, BUT ONE ALSO GETS THE IMPRESSION THAT FORD'S TIME TO
PRESS FOR A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT IS LIMITED.

FORD SPOKE ABOUT THREE POSSIBILITIES: CONTINUED NEGOTIATIONS
WITHOUT GENEVA; NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA ALONE OR AN INTERIM
AGREEMENT UNTIL THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IS CONVENED. THE WAY HE
PRESENTED THINGS SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT AT THIS STAGE
HE IS INTERESTED IN ANOTHER INTERIM SETTLEMENT ON THE WAY TOWARD
GENEVA.

IT IS RATHER REGRETTABLE THAT IN THIS LIVE INTERVIEW FORD WAS
SPARED A LOT OF UNPLEASANT QUESTIONS, SUCH AS, DOES ISRAEL,
WITH WHAT IS HAPPENING TO VIETNAM, NOT HAVE CAUSE TO BE
SUSPICIOUS OF U.S. PROMISES AND GUARANTEES, PARTICULARLY,
WHEN THE U.S. PRESIDENT HIMSELF, A FEW MINUTES EARLIER,
HAD ADMITTED THAT HIS COUNTRY HAD NOT STOOD BY THOSE
COMMITMENTS.

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